

MP-00-49
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916/978-5100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 26, 2000

**RECLAMATION INITIATES FORMAL VISITOR
SERVICES PLANNING EFFORT FOR LAKE BERRYESSA**

Reclamation is initiating a formal Visitor Services Planning effort for the Lake Berryessa Recreation Area. This plan will determine the type and level of commercial facilities and services that are needed for future long-term operations.

There are currently seven concessionaires authorized by Reclamation to provide commercial support services to visitors of Lake Berryessa. These concession contracts have been in effect since the late 1950's and will expire in 2009. The timeframe for completion of this plan is 18 to 24 months. The plan will identify and develop the requirements and terms and conditions for new competitive concession contracts.

The Visitor Services Planning process will include opportunities for comment by interested parties. These comment opportunities will be announced in advance. To be added to the mailing list for this project, contact Reclamation at the following address:

Berryessa Visitor Services Planning Effort
Bureau of Reclamation
Central California Area Office
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, California 95630

Some of the issues to be addressed in this plan include day use needs, long-term and short-term recreational vehicle and trailer sites, marina development, consolidation or expansion of operations (perhaps resulting in fewer or more concessionaires), new services development and construction, retention or removal of existing facilities, food and beverage service needs, overnight lodging facilities, support for marine-based activities (i.e., individual and tournament fishing), swimming, water skiing, etc.

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Reclamation recognizes that public use patterns and needs are much different now than when the current contracts were issued over 40 years ago. This plan, with the assistance of public input, will provide Reclamation with an early road map in the development of prospectus packages for new concession contracts.

Concessionaires at Lake Berryessa and other Federal land management areas conduct their business on land owned by the Government and assigned to them for the contractually-prescribed uses. They do not own nor do they have any rights for compensation for the land on which their businesses operate although they do have certain rights for compensation on facilities they have developed. Concession contracts normally run somewhere between 5-30 years. The term length depends upon the assumed business risk and the level of necessary investment required of the concessionaire. It is unlikely that the next term of concession contracts will be as long as current contract terms.

There is a concurrent internal analysis taking place between Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding which agency is best suited for management of the recreation activities, including concessions, at Lake Berryessa. BLM currently manages significant recreation resources in the Berryessa area extending north to Clear Lake. Both agencies will be a party to this planning process.

For additional information, please contact Bruce Wadlington at Reclamation's Central California Area Office, Folsom, at (916) 989-7175 or TDD (916) 989-7285, or at the Lake Berryessa Office at (707) 966-2111 extension 108 or TDD (707) 966-0205.

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